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*Gene Channer.*

HISTORY  
OF  
WOODSVILLE, N. H.

COMPILED BY  
AMERICAN HISTORY CLASS  
OF  
1919

HENRY ROWDEN, REGINALD DOWNING  
EDITORS





Woolsey Hall - 11th & 11th



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#### PREFACE

This publication is the result of a meager attempt to make the study of Local History and Government seem practical, to stimulate initiative, individuality, originality and to promote general interest.

Although it is extremely imperfect and the material is exceedingly inadequate we hope that the endeavors of the Class of 1919 will meet general approval.

KATHERINE BRIGGS.



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## Geographical Situation, Early Settlements and Settlers of Woodsville

Woodsville, located on a plateau, lies at the extreme north west corner of the town of Haverhill, at the junction of the Ammonoosuc and Connecticut rivers.

In 1754 an exploring party, under Capt. Powers, came here from Hollis, searching for Indians. They saw no Indians, but found many evidences of them, such as cleared lands, corn fields, and Indian burying grounds, where bodies were buried in a sitting posture. The Indians were supposed to be of the St. Francis tribe. The names Ammonoosuc and Connecticut are derived from Indian names: Ammonoosuc meaning Great-Deer Place, or Namaos Auke, Connecticut meaning Great-Fish-Place, or Quinne-Attuck Auke.

Fearing their source of supplies would fail they were obliged to return. Although they gave a fine report of this part of the country it was not settled until many years later.

The lands about Woodsville are mostly meadow lands, with many growths of fine trees. Early settlers found hunting grounds abounding with bear, deer, moose and fowl, as well as rivers supplied with salmon and streams with trout. Tall, luxurious grass was growing abundantly, making plenty of fodder for the cattle. There were also many fine pasture lands.

Woodsville is named from John L. Woods, who, in 1829, was the owner of the land on which it now stands. He owned and operated a mill for the manufacture of lumber where the present bridge stands on Ammonoosuc river. The mill was first owned by Mr.

Cotton, but was not so extensively operated as by Mr. Woods, who also started the first store in Woodsville.

The birth of Woodsville actually occurred in 1853, when the Boston and Maine opened an easy route here and made Woodsville a railroad village.

The first settlers of Haverhill had tracts of land which they had to cultivate for five years under penalty of forfeiture. They were obliged to pay one shilling for every one hundred acres on every 25th of December. All pine trees that were fit for masts and the like for the English navy could be cut only by a license from the king.

As soon as a town had fifty families it could have two fairs every year, and a market for one or more days each week. Besides the shilling every settler had to pay an ear of corn for every one hundred acres. This was done in order to pay the officers at Plymouth.

In 1830 a steamboat ascended the Connecticut river as far as Woodsville, and in 1832 five boats made daily trips from Hartford to Woodsville. They gave it up after a few years as the river was so uncertain.

Russell King came from Charlestown in 1836, and, in company with his brother, Hiram, bought 300 acres of land, where Woodsville now stands. The Kings cut off the heavy pines on the land, and sold them to "Jack" Woods, receiving \$3 per 1000 feet.

Later, the brothers divided the farm, Russell taking the south end, where he raised sheep, which were then the chief farm resource. The house which he built on his farm is still standing and occupied by his descendants. Russell King died in 1874.

## Manners and Customs

The first settlers of Woodsville were a brave and sturdy class of men and women, not afraid to encounter hard labor in their endeavor to found a new and prosperous home.

During the first years, the settlers lived in rude huts and log cabins with few conveniences and comforts. In the year 1773 farm houses began to be built. These houses were of two sizes, the half-house about 20 feet square, a small and low building, and the double house usually about 25 by 40 feet. In these homes there was one family room with an immense chimney and fireplace. The fireplace served as heat, light, cooking stoves, and places for social gatherings. The fire was kept over night by covering up the embers with ashes. Sometimes when it went out a few coals or brands were borrowed from a neighbor. The house was always kept neat and clean by the housewife. Hemlock brooms were used. The walls were bare and rough and the floor was sprinkled with clean, white sand.

In 1815 chairs, wagons, stoves and clocks were introduced. The food was simple but wholesome. Meat was plentiful, both domestic and from the forest. Barley cake, rye, Indian bread, pumpkin pie and Indian pudding were the common articles of food.

Although there were hard labor and long hours for these first settlers there were also many pleasures. Chopping bees, which made way with the minister's wood pile, quilting bees and husking bees were common frolics. But the two great events of the year were the "sugaring off" and the June training. The June training was when all the male inhabitants of

the village got together and gave a military pageant. All along the parade ground there were tents and booths where gingerbread, candies and rum were sold, and it was a general good time for everyone.

Before the Revolutionary War there were no roads in the town. The chief means of travel were over blazed trails through the forests. About the time of the Revolution a road was laid out from Woodsville to Plymouth.

The first settlers got their mail by travelers, who were going and coming through the town. By the time of the Revolutionary War there was a regular post driver, who brought the mail from Portsmouth to Woodsville, and back again to Portsmouth by way of Charlestown. It usually took the post driver two weeks to make a trip. It cost twelve and one half cents to send a letter forty miles, for less than that distance it cost eight cents.

In 1814 there was a permanent stage coach which brought the mail from Concord over the Turn Pike road three times a week. Soon they had another coach coming from Plymouth, and by the time the railroad was built there were six or eight stage lines which brought the mail and passengers from all directions. All along these stage coach lines there were Road Houses or taverns. It is said that the different taverns in town used to put up from 75 to 100 people each night. These stage coach taverns were the center of attraction in the town. When the stage came in, all would gather at the tavern to learn what the news of the day was. Then again in the evening the men, young and old, would go to the tavern and have their glass of rum and talk. It is interesting to note the prices that were asked in those days. For lodging ten cents was charged, twelve and one half cents for a bite, and twenty-five cents for a regular meal. The meals consisted of cold meats, sausages, bean

porridge, brown bread, pies, cake, and cheese. These taverns were distinguished for their homelike hospitality.

When the railroad was built in 1852 to Woodsville there was a great change. While before, the southern part of Haverhill had been the center of the town, now Woodsville became the principal village. Schools, dwellings, and stores were rapidly built.

Railroading has always been the chief occupation of the people of Woodsville; nevertheless Woodsville has always been a progressive and lively town. It has some of the best schools in Northern New Hampshire, rural free delivery, and many modern improvements, besides being quite a commercial center.

Woodsville is prominent in clubs, lodges and amusements. The Mt. Gardner Grange was instituted at Woodsville in 1894, being the fourth Grange in the town. Haverhill is the first town in the United States which had four Granges. There were thirty-eight charter members.

The Moosehillock lodge, No. 25, I. O. O. F., was established in 1876. In 1882 the lodge bought the property on Pleasant street. The buildings burnt and the splendid block which now stands was erected. On the second and third floors the lodge has a nice set of rooms. The lodge has property and investments amounting to over \$23,000.

The Mt. Gardner lodge, K. of P., was instituted at Woodsville in 1895 with twenty-six charter members. It has lodge rooms in the Tilton block.

The Moose lodge was instituted in 1917. At present they have a large membership with a fine hall in the Davison building.

Mary A. Glidden Rebekah lodge, No. 45, I. O. O. F., was established in 1892 by John A. Glidden with ten charter members. The lodge was named after Mr.

Glidden's wife. At present it has a very large membership.

There are four or five labor organizations with many members.

The Women's club is the most important club in town. It was formed in 1894 as a Women's Reading club, but joined the federation of Women's clubs in 1912. It has done much good for the community by getting important speakers to come here to address the women. The Sunshine club was instituted in 1910. It is made up of young girls who have furnished a room at the Cottage hospital. There are two organizations of Camp Fire Girls in town, the Moose-hillock and Nita Anokr. The Boy Scouts also have a strong organization. A Bird club was instituted in 1918 and has a large membership today. The American Red Cross has a branch in Woodsville with most every man, woman and child belonging. It has done splendid work during the recent World War. There is also a branch of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Woodsville, which was started in 1912 with fourteen charter members. There are two important men's clubs here, the Board of Trade and the Railroad Men's club. The Board of Trade was instituted in 1913 and has done splendid work in behalf of the community. The railroad men organized a Y. M. C. A. in 1895, where Dr. Speare now lives on Court street. In 1914 the Y. M. C. A. was given up and the Railroad Men established a club room on the third floor of the Opera block.

Dancing and moving pictures are the principal amusements in Woodsville. The first moving pictures were in Davison hall, where a man from St. Johnsbury showed pictures once a week. In 1908, Richard Henderson started pictures in "The Palace Theatre," and then in 1914 the Henderson Theatre was erected. In

1918 Henry Rowe started a new moving picture house in the Opera block. At present it runs regularly and gives now and then a few special features.

## Schools

Woodsville's first schoolhouse is still standing in its original position at the end of South Court street. It has been transformed into a dwelling house, as there has been no school there for over forty years.

In 1786 the town of Haverhill was divided into four school districts. Woodsville was a part of district four, later known as the Pine Plains district, until 1840 when it was changed into a separate district numbered thirteen. The first meeting of the new district was held May 20, 1840, at the store of John L. Woods, for whom the village was named. The following officers were elected: Moderator, Jonathan B. Rowell; clerk, Winthrop Blake; prudential committee, Jonathan B. Rowell, Russell King, Nathaniel Dickenson and J. B. Rowell were chosen a committee to report a plan for a schoolhouse and the expense of building one. There is no record of the report of that committee.

On November 10, 1840, at a special meeting, it was voted to have school three months a year and that the master board with the scholars. Where the school was, or the schools for the next six years, is not mentioned in the records.

On March 26, 1847, a committee composed of G. Witherell, R. King, and A. Hall was elected to see whether we should join with the Bath district, or whether we should furnish a place in our own district for a school. It was decided to build a new schoolhouse in Woodsville. Mr. Witherell was appointed to choose a good location, while Mr. Hall and Mr. King should estimate the expense and report at the next meeting.

On October 9, 1847, the district voted to raise two

hundred and twenty dollars for the expenses of a school building and location. It was discovered that there had been informalities at former meetings and it was doubtful if legal action had been taken, so a new beginning was made. November 4, a special meeting was held, and it was voted to build a new schoolhouse and to raise money for the expenses of the schoolhouse. The same committee as before was chosen, and the same number of dollars raised.

A schoolhouse was built by John L. Woods, and in January, 1848, a committee was chosen to examine the house to see if it was suitable and fit for a school. The committee reported that the seats and writing desks were too narrow and too high and were imperfectly put up and finished; the window casings were too narrow, and in many places the lathing was imperfectly put on. The committee thought it would cost twenty-one dollars to make those repairs, and they recommended that Woods make twenty-one dollars' reduction on his price, or else repair it himself. Woods consented to reduce the price twenty-one dollars. It was then voted to accept the new schoolhouse. Russell King was appointed to make the repairs recommended by the committee.

Even then the question was not settled. There was much discussion at the meetings and in the homes, for the tax payers did not intend to spend their money foolishly. The entire cost was two hundred and fifty-five dollars. It was not an elaborate affair, but it was a school and the citizens paid for it without the issue of notes or bonds.

About 1870 it was found that Woodsville was a rapidly growing village, and the number of school children was increasing each year. The first schoolhouse was not large enough, so it was decided to build another on the place where the graded school building now stands. The same building remains today, although

it has been moved now and is known as Davison's hall. This building was finished in the early part of 1873. In 1874 the school report for the town of Haverhill said: "No. 13 has erected a beautiful building at the cost of \$6,000, which is very creditable to the enterprise and taste of the inhabitants of that prosperous village. It is designed for a graded school, and is fitted up with all the modern improvements for convenience and comfort."

The dedication of the building was celebrated by a dance, which people from all over the town attended. Such a large schoolhouse was not known in this part of the state.

The school consisted of two rooms down stairs and a hall overhead. The primary school was held in the hall as there was no room down stairs. In the two rooms on the first floor were the intermediate and grammar grades. A high school was started later. The first teacher of the grammar grades was Miss Mary Stevens; intermediate grades, Miss Josie Fole; and of the primary grades, Miss Addie Ramsey, who also had some classes in the other two rooms.

Sunday services were held in the school hall nearly every Sunday. The Wells River Congregational minister, Mr. Ranslow, preached there, and also the Episcopal, Methodist, Advent, and Baptist ministers.

In the year 1877 a tuition school was started by a Mr. Greely. It was held in Davison hall and lasted only one term.

In 1885, there were one hundred and four pupils and only room for seventy-eight. The school certainly required more room. March 7, 1885, the school was organized into a high school district and since then has had charge of its own school affairs. The following board of education was elected: Ezra B. Mann, Albert Leighton, Herbert Remich, Samuel Page, James Sawyer, and Seth Stckney. District number ten in

Bath was united with Woodsville Union High School district. The funds for the use of the district amounted to about \$1,000. Three hundred and fifty dollars were raised to finish an additional room for the high school. The high school was put in charge of Bernard V. Child. Mr. Child kept this position for three terms.

In 1896, Samuel W. Robertson became principal of the high school. At that time it consisted of about twenty girls and boys. The high school was then divided into grades or classes. Eugene Dow was a lone senior, and was the first graduate of Woodsville high school.

The pupils rapidly outgrew this schoolhouse, so the old one was moved and a new brick schoolhouse was built on the original lot. When Mr. Robertson left in 1905, the high school numbered fifty pupils, and had two assistant teachers. Norman J. Page took Mr. Robertson's place and kept the position until 1907, when he was succeeded by Frederick Wallace. Mr. Wallace was here only one year. After him came Elbert E. Orcutt, a graduate of Yale University, who raised the school's standard very high and kept it high all the time he was there. He stayed until 1918. He was very influential in helping to convince the people of the need of a new high school building.

A splendid high school was built on King's Plain, and first occupied at the beginning of the spring term in 1914. This is a large, modern building with a study room, five recitation rooms, chemistry and physics laboratory, library, assembly hall, office, teachers' rest room, and domestic science laboratory.

The high school rooms in the graded school were made into two rooms so that each grade would be in a room by itself.

Special features of the high school social life have been the sports of base ball and basket ball, the Ly-

ceum or Debating club, the orchestra, prize speaking, social dances and the senior plays.

When Mr. Oreutt resigned and went to Plymouth, N. H., Mr. McGaw became principal, with four assistant teachers. Through the help of the history and Latin teacher, Miss Briggs, the auditorium was fitted out for basket ball, especially for the girls, but the boys played there also.

At the present time there are one hundred and thirty members of Woodsville high school and the study room is more than crowded. Probably before many years it will be necessary to enlarge the building.

## WOODSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE FLAG

1. Ashley, Daniel	31. Large, Robert
2. Bailey, George	32. Leighton, Philip
3. Bailey, Harold	33. Leonard, Mortimer
4. Baird, William	34. Libbey, William
5. Boemig, Karl	35. Little, Lee
6. Boemig, Roy	36. Lord, Henry
7. Brown, Roy	37. Lowe, Burton
8. Carr, Hazel	38. Martel, Fred
9. Chamberlin, Edwin	39. McClintock, Elmer
10. Clark, Harold	40. McGreal, Michael
11. Cochran, Frank	41. McIntire, Clarence
12. Cook, Roscoe	42. McMeekin, Norman
13. Davison, Harold	43. Miller, Harold
14. Desautels, Louis	44. Miller, Lynn
15. Eastman, Burns	45. Moulton, Hiram
16. Fields, Gerville	46. Noyes, Christine
17. Gale, Errol	47. Nutter, Joseph
18. Gale, Linn	48. Park, Bernard
19. Gale, Morris	49. Randall, George
20. Gates, Frederick	50. Rowden, Henry
21. Haley, Harold	51. Sanborn, Roy
22. Hatch, Harold	52. Stimson, Erville
23. Hatch, Lewellyn	53. Stimson, Raymond
24. Hosford, Larkin	54. Sutherland, Robert
25. Howe, Luman	55. Titus, Earl
26. Keyser, Ray	56. Titus, Paul
27. Keyser, Roland	57. Walker, Maurice
28. Kinder, Rolland	58. Ward, Leon
29. Klarke, Perley	59. Ward, Reymer
30. Kugelman, Robert	60. Wilson, Frank
61. Wright, Freeman	

## The Water System and Electric Lights

Before the Civil War most of the inhabitants of Woodsville obtained water from a cistern on their own premises since the railroad pumped what they needed from the river. As the railroad pushed north it was seen that the place would be a terminal and probably would become a large village. It was seen also that a water system was needed badly. The best site appeared to be some natural spring in back of what is now known as the Howland farm, about two miles northeast of the village. The people appropriated sufficient money so that the system was laid down during the summer of 1864.

No provision was made for fire protection at this time. The lead pipe ran from Howland's house straight down the track, through the cut, and was originally piped into the houses of the town. Some people still have this water in the house. As the town grew, more people took advantage of the system.

Woodsville began to increase in size rapidly and it became apparent that good fire protection as well as a sewerage system was needed. The old system could supply neither of these necessities. Then the railroad people agreed to cooperate and in 1885 the Woodsville Aqueduct Company was organized. A plant was built on the site of the old Woods saw mill, where it now stands. Bonds were sold and a capital of \$30,000 was secured. This capital has grown to \$100,000.

Two thirds of the stock was taken up by about thirty citizens and the Boston and Maine railroad took the rest. Ira Whitcher was elected president and G. A. Davison secretary of the Woodsville Aqueduct Company.

The water system is considered sufficient for fire protection and domestic uses. It has a pressure of eighty-five pounds and can supply a place with a population of 10,000.

At a stockholders' meeting in January, 1891, it was decided to extend operations and furnish electric lights. An addition was built on the pumping station and this was equipped with a 600 light brush dynamo. The dynamo could be connected to a large water wheel or to a steam engine which was installed for use in case of high water.

Within three years the place outgrew the power and a 1000 light dynamo was installed. The dynamo was of the Fort Wayne alternating current type, the best at the time, and was capable of supplying both arc and incandescent lights. This new system was a great success.

After the Aqueduct Company laid its pipes, the old water was taken out of the houses and several stand pipes were installed. This had to be done, because the river water was unfit to drink. Until about four years ago the stand pipes were not kept open in the winter, and people were forced to buy drinking water if they wanted any which was fit to drink.

A well was dug at the new engine house, and for about two years, the railroad men got their water there. When the house was enlarged this well had to be given up.

During the winter of 1912-13 the pumping station got on fire, and before it was extinguished the electric light system was destroyed. For about four months the town was without lights. Some of the stores connected with the Wells River system, but their supply was limited. The owner of the movie theatre bought a small dynamo and furnished his own power for over two months.

The building was gradually reconstructed. It was an exceptionally hard winter and the work progressed slowly. When the work was nearly finished a severe freshet delayed the work nearly a month. For about 48 hours the water system was out of commission entirely. By the first of May everything was in operation once more. The electric system was enlarged and a building of fire proof material was completed.

About four years ago Mr. Dearth had an artesian well driven for his own benefit. It was driven about one hundred and seventy-five feet before sufficient water could be found. The next summer Mr. Sargent also had a well driven. This one went down over three hundred feet. His water supply was considerably larger than that of Mr. Dearth. This well could supply the town with drinking water for an indefinite time if necessary.

In the fall of 1918 the stand pipe water which had run into a lead pipe for over fifty years was condemned, and the stand pipes were closed. At this time Mr. Sargent put up a stand pipe on his own premises and he sells water to people at cost. A water team went on a route, and a new effort was made to purify the water by chlorine gas.

It has been suggested that the town buy the entire stock of the Aqueduct Company, which is valued at more than \$100,000, and which is now practically owned by the railroad.

At present the village of Woodsville, which styles itself as the live town of the North Country, is practically without suitable drinking water free of charge. Action was taken at the last precinct meeting and a committee appointed to look into the matter. This committee will report about September first, and it is hoped something definite will be planned. The stand pipes were again opened in April, 1919, but people use the water at their own risk.

## Woodsville Fire Department

The Fire Department was organized soon after the installation of the present water system, and for some time the hose cart and equipment were kept in George F. Lyons' barn; he being chief of the company. Soon after, the old hose house near the Woodsville garage was built, and is still in use as a storehouse for sand. Later the present Central Fire Station was built with tower for drying hose. The equipment is kept on the ground floor, with a Commissioners' room and hall on the second floor. Soon after the building of Stone's mill a small hose house was erected in that vicinity.

The present department has twenty-one men and three substitutes, and is divided into two companies, namely, Hose Company No. 1, consisting of a captain, lieutenant, and eight men, and Hook and Ladder Company No. 2, consisting of captain, lieutenant, and eight men, superintended by a chief.

The equipment consists of four hose carts, two in the central house, one in the old house near the Woodsville garage, and one in the house in Stoneville, and a hook and ladder wagon. Each hose cart carries six hundred feet of hose, and the department has over two thousand feet in reserve, making it possible to lay as many as eight streams to any of the larger buildings that are centrally located, and the ladder wagon carries two twenty-four foot roof ladders, two twenty-eight foot wall ladders, and a fifty foot Bangor extension ladder, and other necessary equipment.

The department has always been considered a very efficient one, and is considered one of the best equipped and manned in the state for a place of its

size. Each member is insured in the New Hampshire State Fireman's association, and the organization is entitled to send three delegates to the annual convention, and has had one president of the association.

## Prominent Men of Woodsville

The first record of any account concerning prominent men of this vicinity dates back as far as 1773. This man was Samuel White, a practicing physician. Samuel White was highly educated, in comparison with men of his time. He studied medicine for several years with the noted Dr. Brackett of Haverhill, Mass. Dr. White was the only doctor in this part of the country at the time and so he covered a great deal of territory, going as far north as Lancaster and fifty to sixty miles south. During the Revolution he enlisted in the army, but made only one trip into Vermont with them.

A few of the many doctors succeeding Dr. White, who are worthy of note, are Erza Bartlett, John McNabb, C. R. Gibson, Charles Newcomb and Dr. Perkins.

At present Woodsville has three practicing physicians and an osteopath. All of these men are highly educated and thoroughly qualified for their business. Dr. Dearborn is a graduate of the Medical department of Dartmouth and one of the first of his class.

Dr. Miller has practiced medicine in Woodsville for many years and is at present the district physician. Although he is expert as a physician and surgeon, his specialty is optics.

Dr. Speare is a young physician in the history of Woodsville, coming from Lisbon only a few years ago. He is a graduate of the University of Vermont in the class of 1902.

Each of the above doctors take turns at practicing surgery at the Cottage hospital.

Dr. Edson is the first and only osteopath in the history of Woodsville. He came here about six years ago and has carried on a very successful practice since.

## LAWYERS

This place has had its full quota of lawyers since settlement. At present there are three of the most prominent lawyers of the state located in this village. They are C. H. Hosford, F. S. Wright, and R. U. Smith.

G. E. Cummings, superintendent of the White Mountain division for years, E. B. Mann, druggist, and William F. Whitcher, (now deceased) News editor, have been the three most prominent citizens for the last two decades. F. Earl Thayer is now editor of the "Woodsville News," our flourishing weekly.

Cy Hobart, our eminent photographer, is well known in the North Country, and J. F. Leonard, our amiable postmaster.

Everybody remembers young Cy Young of big league fame, and "Cuddy" Murphy, who doubtless has the makings.

## Relation of Woodsville to Neighboring Villages

In the northwestern corner of the town of Haverhill at a distance of but ten miles from Haverhill Corner is the village of Woodsville, but in methods and manners these two villages are as far apart as the poles. One represents the old and the other the new features of life and custom. Haverhill is full of historical associations and Woodsville of business activity. The one is as quiet as a country churchyard while the other is noisy with the puffing of engines and the shifting of trains. One is wealthy and aristocratic, the other has a free and easy swing, with a cordial greeting for a visitor, be he prince or peasant.

Much jealousy and prejudice arise between these villages. Haverhill is jealous of the extensive business carried on in Woodsville, and the popularity of that village, while on the other hand, Woodsville is also jealous of Haverhill for its wealth and historical associations.

At town meetings it may be noticed that many oppositions are made to the motions brought forth by the opposite sections of the town. As these villages are so widely different, they should be separated into different towns and have laws which would satisfy each.

Wells River is situated just across the Connecticut river from Woodsville and like Woodsville it is chiefly a railroad town, but upon a somewhat smaller scale because it can in no sense be termed a railroad terminal except for the little road called "The Montpelier & Wells River."

Many of the men who live in Wells River are employed in Woodsville, principally on the railroad, and of course there is more or less intercourse between the two towns.

Wells River is a much older village than Woodsville and was a full grown town before Woodsville even was thought of. The railroad as we all know was the making of Woodsville and when her growth started, she far outstripped her rival. These two towns have in the past, are now, and probably always will be, business rivals for the trade and prosperity of the surrounding country. Even to a casual observer this rivalry is clearly demonstrated at the Wells River depot. He will hear: "Hotel Wentworth—Hotel Wentworth"—and like an echo comes back: "Hale's Tavern—Hale's Tavern."

And thrown in on the side, so to speak, there is much exchange of hot glances back and forth between the two drivers, one from Woodsville and the other from Wells River.

This rivalry was due, in a great measure to the toll bridge that has until quite recently, interrupted to no small extent the intercourse between the two respective towns.

The selectmen of these two towns got together and decided to put in a free bridge. It was completed in the fall of 1917 and it was an occasion of much rejoicing and merry-making.

Speeches were made by Governors Keyes and Graham of New Hampshire and Vermont respectively. Mr. Raymond U. Smith was among those present and contributed his part of speaking.

Since this free bridge has been installed I think I can perceive a more amiable and brotherly feeling growing up between these little hamlets. Let us hope so at any rate.

## Woodsville in the Great World War

When war was declared on Germany in 1917, not many boys answered the first call, but later in the summer when a number of men came through Woodsville and stopped for enlistments many of the town fellows volunteered for service. Later on in two or three drafts many more boys went to the several camps.

Only one boy who went from Woodsville died while in service. He was William Libby, a former clerk in Field's store in Woodsville. Many of the boys who went from here received commissions. They obtained the offices of lieutenant, senior lieutenant and corporal.

Daniel Ashley, Harold Davison, Mortimer Leonard and Harold Miller held the highest positions. Mortimer Leonard was superintendent of all wireless stations in the Second Naval district.

Two fellows, Roy Boemig and Harold Davison, won the French war medal. The name of Miss Hazel Carr will be put on the Honor Roll of Woodsville as the only girl to go from this village into the service of her country.

Not all of the boys had the chance to go "Over There." Some were glad they did not, while others were much hurt in feelings because they were not taken.

There are other things to mention also in connection with the war. The Red Cross has done excellent work in making bandages and other articles to be used for the wounded. It raised money by giving entertainments, pictures and dances. In all of its drives the people responded willingly and were glad to help.

The people not only aided the Red Cross, but in every Liberty Loan campaign the townspeople responded very freely by stinting and saving in every way in order to purchase Bonds. During the food shortage the people learned to eat many foods which before the war they had not dreamed of trying.

Other organizations in town helped, too. The Camp Fire Girls and the Boy Scouts solicited in the Liberty Loans. Many of the Scouts earned medals and some of them earned additional bars for their services in the campaigns.

Woodsville co-operated very well with Wells River and North Haverhill in many attempts to help the government. At the time of the armistice on November 11, 1918, a great celebration was held to show the joy of many hundreds of people not only in Woodsville but everywhere.

On May 14, 1919, a grand jubilee was held in Woodsville in honor of the returned soldiers. A supper was served for them, and a very good entertainment was given them, to which the public was invited.

## Business Enterprises and Public Buildings

### THE COTTAGE HOSPITAL

The Cottage hospital, which is situated about a mile or more below Woodsville on the road to North Haverhill, was formerly a tavern or Inn where the stage horses were changed on the route from Boston to Lancaster. It was only a small building when purchased.

Rev. W. A. Loyne of the Methodist church was the organizer. Through his influence several men formed an association for the establishment of a hospital. The first meeting was held in the Directors' Room of the Woodsville National Bank, on October 19, 1903.

The hospital building was enlarged in 1910. It cost six thousand dollars in all. Three thousand dollars were paid for the old building and three thousand for the addition.

At present the hospital has twenty-one beds, a men's ward of six beds and a women's ward of three beds, besides twelve private rooms. There are five special rooms, one endowed by the wife of Dr. Stearns in his memory, one endowed by Mrs. Mary Carbee, the Tarleton Club room furnished and endowed by members of Tarleton Club, the T. C. C. room, furnished and endowed by a club of girls. Some of the members are Madge Barbour, Pauline Kitteridge and Hazel Carr; and another room furnished by the S. S. club of girls in Woodsville.

Up to four years ago the hospital had a heavy debt, which has been raised by the efforts of a few inter-

ested persons. A permanent fund has since been started.

All doctors from Woodsville, North Haverhill, Haverhill and Wellis River practice at the hospital, each one taking his turn as house doctor. All of the doctors constitute the medical staff. Any doctor who is in good standing can take patients there.

The hospital is surely a need, as can be seen from the fact that the full capacity is twenty-five and during the influenza epidemic thirty-five patients were under care and many more turned away.

The hospital has a staff of a superintendent and eight nurses, who are training. The present superintendent is Mrs. Nellie A. Banyea. The hospital has graduated thirty-four nurses since its history began.

A staff of twenty-five directors, with Mrs. Mary Randall as president, and a staff of sixteen trustees, with Mr. Dennis Rouhan as president, constitutes the ruling power of the hospital.

#### WOODSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Woodsville Public Library is a medium sized, square brick building situated on School street. It was built in 1893 and was the gift of Ira Whitcher. The expense of construction, which included the cost of excavation, foundation, stone work, building materials, construction, grading, furniture, and fixtures amounted to about one thousand dollars.

Mr. Whitcher, in connection with W. F. Whltcher and Mary E. Whitcher Abbott, gave books valued at two thousand dollars. About six hundred dollars were raised by the town for the purchase of books. The Library was opened in October, 1894, with Charles Griswold as librarian. It contained about two thousand volumes.

In 1901 the Library became entitled to one third of

the sum raised by the town of Haverhill for library purposes. Additional appropriations must come from the Woodsville district. It contains a large supply of books at present and new ones are added every year.

#### THE COURT HOUSE

The County records and court proceedings were held originally in North Haverhill village. The building erected for this purpose was a two-story structure and cost one thousnd, nine hundred and thirty-one dollars. This building remained in use only twenty years, when the records were moved to Haverhill Corner.

However, this was not to be their permanent home, for ninety years later, in 1889, it was voted in Legislature to build a court house in Woodsville and twenty thousand dollars were appropriated for the purpose. The lot on which it stands was presented to the town by Hon. Ira Whitcher, one of the members of the building committee. It is situated in the business section of the village, on Court street.

The offices in the court house are those of the Clerk, Register of Deeds, Register of Probate and the County Commissioners. Upstairs there are a large court room and also several small rooms. In the very tower of this building there is a large bell, the largest in the town of Haverhill. It was rung for the first time on November 11, 1918, to celebrate the laying down of arms of the Germans and the Allies.

The original officers of those first to occupy the new court house were: Myron H. Richardson, Register of Deeds; Charles B. Griswold, Clerk of the Court; and William F. Westgate, Register of Probate. At present the Register of Deeds is R. T. Bartlett; the Clerk of Court, D. D. Dow; and the Register of Probate, W. J. Randolph. Court is generally held three times a year.

## FACTORIES, MILLS, ETC.

The first industry of any kind was a saw and grist mill, built on the site where the light plant now stands, by a Mr. Cotton in 1811. Lumber was sawed from the pine which stood in abundance where the village now stands. This mill was run by several, but most successfully by John Woods, after whom the village was named; it was later bought out by C. B. Smith, who manufactured shovel handles. A few years later it was destroyed, being washed away by high water.

Q. A. Scott ran a small establishment for a while, making uniforms, costumes, banners, and lodge paraphernalia.

C. F. Carr manufactured mouldings, house furnishings, doors, sashes, blinds, etc., for several years.

Ira Whlcher owned a large saw mill just south of Mrs. Randall's coal sheds. Part of the chimney still stands. This was one of the largest and best equipped saw mills in this section at the time and hired many hands. About the middle of 1906 the mill burned, causing a large conflagration which will be long remembered. The effects of this blaze may be noticed on the coal shed at the present day.

A shirt waist factory was established, in the building where the laundry was about 1908 or 1909, but it was unsuccessful, not lasting over seven months.

A grist mill was built at the top of the hill on Smith street, and is now run by L. C. Butler.

The building that is now known as the Palace Bowling Alleys was once across the street from where it is now and dealt in coal, cement and many other things.

D. S. Stone built a mill on the site where his mill now stands in 1908. This was very successful and the most of what is now known as Stoneville was built by Mr. Stone. This mill burned about three years ago and another was built on this site on a smaller scale.

## STORES

The first store in Woodsville was built and run by John L. Woods, in what is now the I. K. George house. Edward Childs and Ezra Kimball successfully ran this for a few years after Mr. Woods. Then for some years Woodsville had no store. Charles Weeks opened up in the old stand in 1859 and later built the Weeks block. In 1875 Albert Leighton and Q. A. Scott went into partnership and set up a clothing and dry goods business in one part of this block. The store was later run by I. K. Stearns, who was bought out by Stahl. The store is now run by Kugelman. A Mr. Miller started a grocery store in the other side of the block and this has been run by F. M. Astle and now by M. Fields. The first fruit store was in the Weeks block and was owned by Jasper Police. He was bought out by Va Garni and it is now run by Charles Christopher. In 1875 the first watch and jewelry store was opened in the Weeks block by William Wallace. This was run for fourteen years and was bought by Frank Kittredge in 1889. It is now run by R. E. Boemig.

The building now known as the Sargent block was a small structure. It was owned by Burton Brothers and successively by Barrows and Prey. It was practically rebuilt into a fine brick block by Sargent, who now runs it.

In 1886 Henry Ramsey and Charles Joy built the Brick store and sold flour. The store was later run by Stickney Brothers, who ran a general store. They were bought out by Charles Whitcher, who was unsuccessful, and it was closed until bought by Hosford. Cyrus Cameron ran a furniture store there for years. It is now run by Rhett Scruggs, who runs a hardware store and plumbing business.

In 1889 Bittinger Brothers built the Bittinger block.

The place had two stores, one run by E. D. Carpenter, and the other by the Woodsville News. The stores are now occupied by the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company and Bassett's barber shop, with the News office in the back part. The News has been managed by several, and is now in the hands of F. Earl Thayer. Fred Battis once ran a pool room and lunch counter where the A. & P. store now is.

The first drug store was situated where Hiram Smith's harness shop is located. It was built by George S. Cummings, who opened a drug store, with C. B. Drake as partner. In 1872 Mr. Drake sold his interest to E. B. Mann and the firm name became E. B. Mann & Co. Mr. Cummings retired, selling to Al Willoughby, and he sold to Ira Mann. In 1890 the Opera House was built and the drug store moved into this building. The bank has been situated in the Opera House since it was built. An addition was built onto this section a few years ago. In another part is a general store, which has been run by Howe & Gorden, Howe alone, Mann & Mann, Fred Mann, and E. B. Mann successively. The postoffice was once in this block, but has been moved to the I. O. O. F. block. The vacancy was occupied by Doe Brothers, and is now run by C. Tabor Gates. There are several offices, a club room, and a fine theatre upstairs.

In 1891 H. H. Whittier started a bakery. The building was burned, but was rebuilt by Dave Mitchell, who sold to C. A. Butson, who runs a meat market there.

Mr. Lovejoy built the Lovejoy block. He ran a meat market in one part, and a millinery store was in the other side. The market was later used by W. Hartwell until he moved where he now is. The Atlantic and Pacific Tea store was there a while. The millinery store has been run by several. Both are now vacant.

The Tilton block was built by S. D. Tilton. Harry

Hibbard had the first shoe store in one part of the building and Ed. Lother ran a hardware store in the other part. Lother is still in business at the old stand. The shoe store was sold to Wilson Beattie and then to Lampher. It was closed for a while, and re-opened by Batchelder & Libby.

The Mulliken block was built by A. F. Mulliken. It was divided into three stores; a grocery store was started by Earnest Craig, who sold to Cadwell, and after a few years Mr. Cadwell sold out to Lynn Miller. A. F. Milliken & Son started a hardware store in the middle of the block and Doe Brothers a clothing store in one end. Doe Brothers sold out to Batchelder & Libby, who kept the clothing store until the block burned in 1915. A portion of the block was saved. This part was rebuilt by A. Lorenzo, who runs a shoe store and does repairing. He had another store in the part opposite him. This was a meat market for a time and is now used by a wholesale fruit establishment.

Music Hall was built by the Music Hall association, composed mostly of Odd Fellows. It was consumed in one of the worst fires the village ever experienced, and a new brick block was built on this site by the I. O. O. F., and is known as the I. O. O. F. building. Rouhan's furniture store and the postoffice occupy the ground floor, and there are several offices on the second, the lodge room being on the third.

T. Rowden built a small block where the Central house stood. This is now occupied by F. H. Mann and W. H. Hartwell.

George Smith built the Variety store and sold out to V. L. Carpenter & Son in 1903. This store has been successful ever since. The Henderson block was erected in 1914 and is one of the most modern in the place. A hotel and several offices are upstairs. The theatre is on the ground floor. A store was put in on

one side and has been run by Kugelman. Stahl now occupies it. Opposite this a restaurant has been established since the block was built.

The first restaurant was a hinch cart, situated between Balley's garage and the express office, and was owned by Johnson.

The second restaurant was owned by Charles Newell in a building where the Odd Fellows' block now is.

The hinch cart opposite the Tilton block was moved and built into a restaurant at the top of the hill leading to Wells River.

The restaurant under Sargent's store has been conducted by several.

When the Henderson block was built St. Jock had a restaurant there and he has been succeeded by Mr. King, Henderson, and Schaeffer.

The restaurant on Beech street has been conducted by Mr. Colby, Michell, Wood & Wood, Wood alone, and now by R. H. Wells.

Fred Battis had a restaurant where the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company has their store.

The latest restaurant to be built has just started in a little room between the Tilton block and the cobbler's. It is conducted by Ernest Belle.

#### HOTELS

Among the early hotels of Woodsville was the Mount Gardner house, which was situated near where the blacksmith shop is now, and which was burned.

The Parker house was built by E. G. Parker in 1872, where the Henderson block now stands. This was also burned.

I. K. George built a hotel where the Rowden block now stands. It was known by several names—Johnson house, Tremont house and Central house. This was also burned a few years ago.

The Wentworth house was built by A. H. Leighton in 1890.

The Henderson hotel is situated in the Henderson block and is the newest in the village.

#### BANKS

The Woodsville Loan and Banking Company was organized in 1891. The officers were C. R. Gibson, president; C. B. Griswold, vice-president; R. A. Horner, treasurer. Whitcher was treasurer after Horner, and resigned in 1896. Mr. Allen was Mr. Whitcher's successor. He stayed until he was succeeded by Jerry Abbott, then Horace Knight became treasurer.

The Woodsville Guaranty Savings bank was organized in April, 1890, with a guaranty fund of twenty-five thousand dollars. E. B. Mann was the first president, Isaac M. Smith was vice-president, R. A. Horner, treasurer. Until the Opera block was built the bank did business in a room in the freight depot, but in 1891 it was moved to its present location. It is provided with a fireproof vault, and a burglar-proof safe.

In 1918 an addition was built on the front of the bank to provide for more room.

H. W. Keyes is the president of the National bank and G. E. Cummings is the president of the Savings bank.

#### CHURCHES

The Episcopal church was the first which was built in Woodsville. It was built June 1, 1885, on land donated by C. B. Smith. The services were held in the school house until the church was completed. The first Episcopal minister was W. B. Smith. He was followed by Rev. Herbert A. Remick, Rev. William H. Burbank, Rev. A. W. Jenks, Rev. James Flanders,

Rev. Mr. Cowper, Rev. Mr. Savage, and Rev. Mr. Cairns, who is now in charge.

The Methodist church was the second one to be built. It was first built where the Lovejoy building now stands and was later moved to Maple street. It was built in 1885 and moved in 1890. The first minister was Rev. A. Twitchell.

The Holiness church was the next and that was built where Mrs. Carl Taylor lives. It was composed of some of the members who left the Methodist church.

The Universalist church was built in 1893 and dedicated in 1894. The services were held in Music Hall, in the Odd Fellows' block, for three years before the church was built. The first minister was Rev. F. L. Carrier.

In 1896 the Catholic people held their first mass in Music Hall and a year from then the Catholic church was erected.

## Railroads

The Boston, Concord, and Montreal railroad, that part of the Boston and Maine system now known as the White Mountain division, was incorporated in 1844. The first stake of the final survey was driven at Concord on May 20, 1845, and from then on the road made slow but sure progress toward opening up the White Mountains. The same year the line was surveyed to a point on the Connecticut river in the town of Haverhill. The original intention of the company was that this road should connect with the Passumpsic road nearly opposite Haverhill Corner. They were very anxious to get the road through Haverhill Corner, that being the principal village in this part of the country.

It appears that the surveyors found trouble with their line at Pike Station. After getting over Warren Summit they could not get down to a low enough level to cross the river at Haverhill Corner, so it was decided to follow the natural tendency of the land and have the lines connect at Wells River, for Woodsville was of little importance at that time.

On March 19, 1849, the road was opened to Fogg's, or what is now Winona, to Plymouth in 1850, where headquarters were established, to Warren in 1851, and to Wells River on July 4, 1853.

The White Mountains railroad was started from Wells River toward Lancaster in 1853, but after reaching Littleton, ran out of funds and was later leased by the Boston and Maine.

The offices of the Boston, Concord & Montreal were first at Concord. They were moved to Plymouth in

1854, and to Woodsville in 1884, as the officials had seen that this was to be the strategic point of the road. The first superintendent of the road was Peter Clark, who was followed by James Elkins, 1847-1853, James Whiton 1853-1857, Joseph Dodge 1858-1883, W. A. Stowell 1883-1889, E. F. Mann 1889-1892, G. E. Cummings 1892-1918. At present the office is in the hands of F. C. Mayo.

The railroad buildings of 1870 and thereabouts were situated somewhat differently than those of today. They consisted of the roundhouse, with a turn table, and five pits, with a blacksmith shop on the rear. The buildings were of brick. Back of the engine house was the woodshed, some two or three hundred feet long. A stationary engine used to saw wood and pump water for the use of the locomotives, and incidentally for the use of the few people who lived near the engine house, since they had no other means of water supply. These buildings were situated where the heating plant now stands, but in 1907, the engine house was destroyed by fire. Then a better and more modern set of shops was erected at the south end of the town, near the newly constructed freight yards.

A typical country station stood about where the road department offices are now. It was practically the same kind of building and was occupied by both the freight and passenger departments. There were two small waiting rooms with the ticket office between. This building now contains the offices of the freight department. Opposite the present station was a car house, holding four cars. A little north of this on the same side of the tracks, opposite Lorenzo's shoe store was a rail shop.

The present station was built in 1890 and includes the superintendent's, dispatchers' and time keeper's offices, besides a director's room, several store houses, and two moderately large waiting rooms.

In 1895 the Boston and Maine leased the road and still manages it. Needless to say the railroad is the one source of Woodsville's prosperity. It has property valued at many thousands of dollars, employs two-thirds of the town's population, and is a dominant factor in politics, as it owns the controlling interest in the Aqueduct Company.

Some facts concerning the engines and rolling stock first used might be of interest. The first engines were small wood-burning affairs, with their cylinders set at an angle. They all carried a great deal of brass work, and were the pets of the engineers who ran them. Such names as "Chocura," "Peter Clark," "Pea," and "Lady of the Lake" were bestowed upon them. The modern locomotive came here in 1900. The rolling stock consisted of a few flat topped coaches, decorated with gilt and heated by sheet iron stoves placed in the middle of the cars. Light was furnished by two candles, one on each side of the car. The cars were hitched up with pin and link couplers; and, of course, there were no such things as air brakes. Bell cords were used only in case of emergency. If the conductor wished to stop his train there was a hand signal that slid out from the end of the car. The engineer was expected to be on the watch and look back for it.

The freight cars at that time were very crude. Only a few box cars had brakes of any kind. The longest car was twenty-eight feet and had a capacity of twenty thousand pounds.

Wages paid in those days were very different from those of today. Section-hands received ninety cents a day compared with three dollars of today, station agents received from forty-seven cents up to one dollar and twenty-three cents, engineers two dollars, firemen one dollar and ten cents, and officials were paid accordingly. The highest official was the super-

intendent, who received six dollars and thirty-eight cents. Shop hands got one dollar and thirty cents a day. Today they are paid sixty-eight cents an hour, and are going to get eighty-four cents soon.

The first telegraph line came here from Plymouth in 1862, but no attempt was made to utilize it in dispatching trains until 1882, when George Randall was made chief dispatcher with headquarters at Plymouth. He came here in 1884 and at present the Woodsville office controls all the White mountain division, together with the complete system of the Montpelier and Wells River railroad.

## The Woodsville Concert Band

On May 19, 1915, twenty bandmen met in what is now the Palace Bowling Alleys. Several of these had been members of the Wells River band, but had decided to cast their lot with the new organization which became known as the Woodsville Concert band. The officers elected at this meeting were Eldon E. Stark, leader, and Guy Day, manager.

At first the band met with no little opposition. Townspeople did not give them much support. They did not have a suitable place in which to practice. However, these things did not discourage the manager and during the summer of this year a few concerts were held.

As the year 1916 drew to a close the members of the band felt that they must have a new band room. By a petition they were able to secure Hose House Hall, which is still used by them. This was much warmer than the old Theatre and frozen horns became a thing of the past.

In 1917 the fame of the band had so spread that several out-of-town engagements were filled. In the fall, Stark was called away to fill a better position and the members elected Perley Klarke to fill Stark's vacancy. Klarke soon enlisted in the navy and Lennie Stevens of Haverhill became leader of the outfit until Klarke's return.

In 1918 at town meeting \$200 was donated to support the band and in the present year \$300 was given for the same purpose.

The band is just coming into its own. Seven or eight members were in the service, where they studied

music under trained musicians. The town is just beginning to see that a band is a really worth-while organization to support, and several are interesting themselves in a plan to build a band-stand. Let us hope that they may meet with success. There is no reason why the band from now on should not have a permanent and well thought of position in Woods-ville.

## The Telephone System

The first telephone system in Woodsville was organized by O. D. Eastman in 1899.

The New England Telephone Company had run a line through Wells River some time previous to 1899, but no attempt had been made to introduce the system into Woodsville.

The Eastman, or the Citizen's phone was at the beginning a private affair since only six houses and the postoffice were connected. In 1900 many more were joined by the system. The office was in Mr. Eastman's house on the lower end of Maple street.

In 1903 the New England put an exchange in this town. Their plan was to get the business if possible; and to do this they offered to install the phone for three months, absolutely free, if the persons would agree to keep it for the remainder of the year. A great majority of the people took advantage of this offer.

This started competition and the five farming district lines, Lyme, Monroe, Topsham, and two other places decided to consolidate into one company with Eastman for the purpose of lessening the business of the New England.

This situation was nearly stable until 1911 when the Citizen's phone sold out because of failure. All of this time the New England had been gaining on the business because of the size and capital it had.

In 1913 the Citizen's system was reorganized in connection with the Bradford Telephone Company. F. L. Walbridge was put in charge and an office was installed at his home on Court street. In the summer of 1918 the office was burned.

Second hand apparatus was procured and the system maintained its service as well as possible under the circumstances.

For some time the office of the New England phone was in Plymouth, but in 1909 it was installed in the I. O. O. F. block on Pleasant street in this town.

## AFTERWORD

This history was written as a requirement in history, and was never intended for publication. It was not decided to put it in book form until the very last of the year and there was no time for the changing of reports that were not done in the best form. This will show the reason for briefness of many of the chapters. The book is a resume of the beginning and progress of Woodsville up to the present time. The history has been read and mistakes in facts corrected. We feel reasonably sure that what we do have are facts, and we hope this booklet will be interesting to the people of the community.

We wish to thank the citizens of the precinct for their co-operation in making this enterprise a success.

HENRY ROWDEN,  
REGINALD DOWNING.

Editors.



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Candies, Chocolates  
and Smokers' Supplies

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District Watch Inspector for B. & M. R. R.

Opera House Block, Woodsville, N. H.

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First Class Shoe Repairing

Shoe Shine Parlor

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